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TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: U.S.-PAK RELATIONS; CAMPAIGN

AGAINST TERRORISM; IRAQ: FOREIGN TROOPS; INDIA-PAKISTAN

RELATIONS; SUDAN: DARFUR CRISIS; GLOBAL ECONOMY: WTO

TALKS

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(August 04, 2004)

MR Highlights: Even a cursory glance at the front pages of today's papers made it abundantly clear that the 'security situation' is the most critical issue of the day. Headlines such as "Troops, Militants Exchange Fire in Waziristan," (para 10), "Two Important Foreign Members of Al-Qaeda Arrested" (para 13), "Killing of Soldiers: Former Chief Minister of Balochistan Booked in the Case" (para 18) and "Cop Picked up from Punjab Chief Minister's Residence for Links with Al-Qaeda" (para 21) completely dominated the news pages of every major daily. Today's stories also indicate that the security-related public concern may soon move away from Waziristan and focus more closely on the happenings in Balochistan.

The question of whether or not Pakistani troops will be deployed in Iraq continued to remain a dominant topic on both news and editorial pages. Prime Minister Shujaat Hussain and Information Minister Sheikh Rashid were quoted as saying "No Troops to Iraq Against Public Opinion" (paras 23-24). However, center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" went back to the Foreign Office announcement which said "Troops Will Not be Sent Under Present Circumstance" and asked the government to clarify the issue. "Iraq Policy: Government Should Get Rid of Confusion" (para 31).

National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice's "gratitude" (NBC interview remarks) towards Pakistan "for providing terrorism intelligence" made to the front-pages as well (Para 4).

Two Federal Ministers came in for some harsh editorial criticism for "issuing contradictory statements" over the arrest of an al-Qaeda operative in Pakistan. Yesterday's papers reported two totally opposite versions on the arrest of an Al-Qaeda terrorist -- Information Minister said that an important terrorist had been arrested while the Interior Minister contradicted his cabinet colleague's claim. "The News" cautioned the Ministers to "comment with care so that no misunderstanding is created in the minds of the people" (para 28). End highlights.

-- News Stories/U.S.-Pak Relations

1. "U.S. Investors shirk Pakistan Due To No Intellectual Property Rights" "The Nation" (08/04)

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Quote: The United States has asked Pakistan to enforce Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) in their letter and spirit saying that Islamabad's commercial interests will be best served if it makes progress towards setting up of Pakistan intellectual property rights organizations (PIPRO) at the earliest. "The U.S. has conveyed its disappointment that PIPRO has not yet become operation," sources told "The Nation" on Tuesday. The U.S. authorities have also conveyed that the deteriorating law and order situation would also affect the Islamabad's endeavors to boost foreign investments in the country.... U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Nancy Powell called on Commerce Secretary Tasneem Noorani in his office on Tuesday to discuss the trade relations between the two countries.... End quote.

2. "U.S. Wants Pakistan To Implement IPRs: Nancy" "The News" (08/04)

Quote: Nancy Powell, the U.S. envoy, has asked to implement the Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) if Islamabad was interested in foreign investment from Washington. The U.S. envoy showed her concern during a meeting with Commerce Secretary Tasneem Noorani on Tuesday. She pointed out that a major obstacle in the U.S. investment was the insufficient protection for the IPRs in Pakistan. According to her, potential U.S. investors had welcomed Pakistan's decision to set up a specialized organization for dealing with the IPRs in the form of Pakistan Intellectual Property Rights Organizations (PIPRO).... End quote.

3. "U.S. Thanks Pakistan For Terror-Related Information" "The Nation" (08/04)

Quote: Two senior Bush administration officials on Monday thanked Pakistan for providing the information, which led to the "extraordinary" terror alert issued by the U.S. Department for Homeland Security. Andy Card, the White House chief-of-staff and Condoleezza Rice, the National Security Adviser, said that Pakistan was United States' partner in the war on terrorism. "With good allies in places like Pakistan, we are getting information that is more detailed and more specific than we had before" about terrorists' plans and "that allows us to better defend ourselves," US President George W. Bush's National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said.... End quote.

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4. "We're Grateful To Pakistan For Providing Terrorism Intelligence: Condoleeza Rice," "Jang" (08/04)

Quote: National Security Adviser Condoleeza Rice has said that the U.S. was grateful to Pakistan, which is its good ally, for providing intelligence on terrorism. She said that this information was more detailed and specific as compared to the past due to which the government has been able to defend the country in a much better way. End quote.

5. "U.S. Dramatically Refashioned Ties With Pakistan" "The News" (08/04)

Quote: The United States has dramatically re-fashioned its relationship with Pakistan in the wake of the 9/11 attacks, says a fact-sheet of the U.S. government released on Tuesday in response to the 9/11 Commission report. The fact-sheet highlighting actions taken by the White House, consistent with the commission report, says President Musharraf is a friend of the United States, and has taken out of commission over 500 al-Qaeda and Taliban operatives, including Khalid Sheik Mohammad, the operational planner behind the 9/11 attacks.... End quote.

6. "Khalfan Handed Over To U.S." "Dawn" (08/04)

Quote: Pakistan is believed to have handed over a key Al Qaeda operative, Ahmad Khalfan Ghailani, to U.S. authorities who have taken him to an undisclosed location, U.S. and diplomatic sources told "Dawn" on Tuesday.... End quote.

7. "CIA And FBI Operating Freely In Pakistan" "Daily Times" (08/04)

Quote: "Under procedures agreed to by the U.S. and Pakistani governments, agents from the CIA, FBI and National Security Agency have been allowed to eavesdrop and conduct wiretaps on terrorism suspects in Pakistan, a Cabinet Minister said on condition of anonymity," reports the Washington Post on Tuesday. The report filed by the newspaper's Pakistani stringer says that "for its part, the Inter-Services Intelligence agency, or ISI, Pakistan's military intelligence service, has designated special units to collect counter terrorism intelligence through hundreds of newly recruited agents and state-of-the art surveillance equipment provided by

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the U.S. government. 'There is almost daily exchange of information between the CIA and ISI. The cooperation is even better than the Afghan war days,' said the Minister.".... End quote.

-- Campaign Against Terrorism

8. "Forces Gain Control Of Shakai, Says ISPR" "Dawn" (08/04)

Quote: The Pakistan Army on Tuesday claimed that security forces had gained control of Shakai and adjoining areas in the South Waziristan Agency. A press release issued by the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Tuesday said that during recent operations in Shakai, Santoi, Manto and Khamrang valleys, the security forces not only flushed out terrorists and gained control of the area but also seized a huge quantity of arms and ammunition.... End quote.

9. "QaedaFlushed Out Of South Waziristan: Army" "Daily Times" (08/04)

Quote: The Pakistan Army said on Tuesday it had 'flushed out' Al Qaeda-linked militants hiding in mountains near the northwest border with Afghanistan, during recent operations. "Security forces during recent operations in Shakai and adjacent Santoi, Manto and Khamrang valleys in South Waziristan Agency have not only flushed out terrorists from the areas, but also seized a large cache of arms," a military statement said, according to agencies.... Tribal leader Haji Omar said hundreds of U.S. troops were engaged in the Wana operation. Haji Omar is the successor to Nek Muhammad. End quote.

10. "Troops, Militants Exchange Fire In Waziristan" "The News" (08/04)

Quote: Troops exchanged fire with militants in different parts of the troubled South Waziristan Agency on Tuesday.... Army and paramilitary forces also targeted militants' positions in Santoi and Manto areas

with long-range artillery.... "Security forces during recent operations in Shakai and adjacent Santoi, Manto and Khamrang valleys in South Waziristan Agency have not only flushed out the terrorists from the area but also seized huge cache of arms," a military statement said.... End quote.

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11. "Operations Due to U.S. Pressure on Musharraf:
Fazl" "The Nation" (08/04)

Quote: Leader of the Opposition in Pakistan National Assembly and President of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Maulana Fazlur Rehman accusing the Musharraf administration of taking decision under world pressure has decried the ongoing military operation Balochistan. He has urged the government to stop the army action as this would only worsen the situation and could lead to instability. Talking to the media after arriving in London.... In reply to a question, the Maulana said the President General Musharraf was under intense international pressure in general and of the United States of America in particular. The manner in which all policies were being formulated reflected the amount of international pressure.... End quote.

12. "Two More Top Al-Qaeda Terrorists Held: Faisal"
"The News" (08/04)

Quote: Interior Minister Makhdoom Faisal Saleh Hayat disclosed on Tuesday that two more "high value" al-Qaeda terrorists of African origin were arrested from Punjab. "The head money on these terrorists was also in millions of dollars," he said while addressing a press conference here. The Minister did not disclose the names of the terrorists, saying that investigations were going and till their finalization, it is not appropriate to disclose the names. "But they are high value targets and their head money is in millions of dollars," he said. He said after the arrest of Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani from Gujrat, the intelligence agencies got sufficient information and the recent arrests were made on the basis of this information.... End quote.

13. "Two Important Foreign Members Of Al-Qaeda Arrested," "Jang" (08/04)

Quote: Interior Minister Makhdoom Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat has said that two important foreign members of Al-Qaeda have been arrested from the Punjab province, who hail from an African country. He said both of them had a head money of million of dollars. He said that the investigation agencies have been able to secure quite useful information from Ahmad Khalfan arrested earlier from Gujrat. He said that for the time being more details about both the accused could not be divulged. End quote.

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14. "Balochistan Tribes Warned" "Dawn" (08/04)

Quote: The government on Tuesday announced a 'crash program' against subversive elements in Balochistan. Interior Minister Faisal Saleh Hayat said at a press conference that the government would give a last chance to tribes, which were behind violence in Balochistan.

"We will call them for dialogue for the last time and then the crash program would be launched," he added. He said that the Frontier Corps, Rangers and other law-enforcement agencies would be deployed in the province to maintain peace.... End quote.

15. "No Military Action In Balochistan Likely: Information Minister," "Jang" (08/04)

Quote: Federal Minister for Information Shaikh Rashid Ahmad has said that the government would root out terrorism from the country and would lay hands on terrorists wherever they might be. He, however, said that no military action would be taken in Balochistan but anybody found damaging the government property would be taken to task. End quote.

16. "Military Action In Balochistan Opposed" "Dawn" (08/04)

Quote: ... Leaders of four Baloch nationalist parties have warned the government against the use of force and said it would be harmful for the country's integrity if issues were not resolved through a political dialogue. They were speaking at a meeting held at the Bugti House on Tuesday.... End quote.

17. "Entire Balochistan Up in A Resistance (Movement), No Way to Reconciliation: Mengal; Baloch Chieftain Refuses to Recognize Muhammad Ali Jinnah as Quaid-e-Azam" "Nawa-e-Waqt" (08/04)

Quote: Baloch nationalist leader Sardar Ataullah Mengal has warned that resistance is all over from Gwadar to Chaman, the whole of Balochistan is part of the move. The people (of Balochistan) are waging their war; everyone knows the problem and resisting with whatever they get hold of. There is no way leading to reconciliation. In an interview to a private channel, he dispelled the impression that Baloch sardars were against the development of Gwadar. We would never

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withdraw from nationalism, he said. Ataullah Mengal refused to recognize the founder of Pakistan as Quaid-e-Azam (great leader) saying I was a student at that time, how could he be my leader, my leader was my teacher, why should I accept anyone else as the leader. End quote.

18. "Killing of Soldiers: Akhtar Mengal (former Balochistan Chief Minister) Booked" "Khbarain" (08/04)

Text: Former Balochistan Chief Minister Akhtar Mengal and others have been booked for the planning that led to the killing of five soldiers and one civilian in Khuzdar. End text.

19. "CM's Guard Held For Qaeda Link" "Daily Times" (08/04)

Quote: Police have arrested a police constable in Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi's security squad for allegedly passing on information to Al-Qaeda and other terrorist outfits about the movement of very very important persons (VVIPs), official sources told "Daily Times" on Tuesday. "He was caught three days ago

from the old gate of the Chief Minister's house when he was passing on information to somebody about Mr. Elahi's movement," said sources. Sources identified the policeman as Raja Waqas, alias Maulvi. They said police had caught several other officials linked to Mualvi for interrogation. "Maulvi used to pass on information about the Chief Minister and other very important persons to terrorists after hearing wireless messages, broadcast just before the departure or arrival of any dignitary," the sources said. "He is a religious extremist and is linked to a banned extremist group."... End quote.

20. "Punjab CM's Security Guard Held" "Dawn" (08/04)

Quote: Police and intelligence personnel have arrested at least half a dozen foreigners and Pakistanis suspected of working for international terror groups. Among them is a Punjab police constable, Raja Waqar Azeem, who was arrested on Monday evening. Azeem has been working with the security team of Punjab Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi since July 12. "We have initiated an inquiry to find out how a policeman with a history of having been involved in militant activities managed to get posted at such a sensitive place," Lahore Police Chief, DIG Tariq Saleem told "Dawn" on

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Tuesday.... End quote.

21. "Cop Picked Up From Punjab CM's Residence For Al-Qaeda Links" "The News" (08/04)

Quote: The personnel of intelligence agencies on Tuesday picked up a constable from the Punjab Chief Minister's residence on the suspicion of having links to al-Qaeda, resulting in the suspension of a Superintendent of Police and utter silence of the police hierarchy over the issue. The constable was identified as Raja Waqar Azeem (belt no 11046/c) deputed at the Gulberg residence of Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on July 12.... End quote.

22. "U.S. Administration Active To Cancel Driving Licenses Of One Million Muslims," "Ummat" (08/04)

Quote: Action has begun to cancel over one million driving licenses of Muslims in the United States. Muslims, including thousands of Pakistanis, have been warned to get their Social Security Cards prior to seeking extension in their driving licenses by the year end which is quite difficult in the present circumstances. Sources at the Homeland Security said that the Bush administration has instructed not to revalidate the driving licenses of the expatriates who are not in possession of the social security cards. End quote.

-- Iraq: Foreign Troops

23. "No Troops To Iraq Against Public Opinion: Shujaat" "Daily Times" (08/04)

Quote: The government will not take any decision on sending troops to Iraq that goes against public opinion, Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain said on Monday.

"I have said once, twice, more than a hundred times that the government has no intention of sending troops to Iraq. Even President Musharraf is not inclined to take any such decision." Any such decision will be made after considering public opinion, Mr. Hussain told reporters after the inauguration ceremony of a new satellite television channel, Business Plus, at a hotel in Lahore. Asked about the Saudi proposal of sending Muslim troops to Iraq under the United Nations cover, the prime minister said the issue was being widely discussed in the Muslim world and in Pakistan but

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nothing had been finalized yet.... End quote.

24. "No Troop Plan At Present: Rashid" "Daily Times"
(08/04)

Quote: Pakistan is not planning to send troops to Iraq at present, Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said on Tuesday. "We won't send our troops there," he said at a press conference. "How can we send our troops when other countries are withdrawing theirs?"... End quote.

-- India-Pakistan Relations

25. "Pakistan, India Inch Closer To Agreement: People-To-People Contact" "Dawn" (08/04)

Quote: India and Pakistan on Tuesday inched closer to agreement on a series of measures to boost people-to-people contact, officials of both sides said.... Both sides shared the view that people from the two countries were very keen to normalize ties. Promotion of friendly exchanges is one of the eight subjects in the composite dialogue process.... End quote.

26. "Pakistan For Experts Group On Conventional Arms"
"The News" (08/04)

Quote: In a significant diplomatic move Pakistan has proposed India the establishment of a joint experts group on conventional weapons (EGCW) to ward off any threat emanating from existing level of armed forces and their disparity. The group will function on the pattern of the experts group on nuclear capabilities. Sources told to "The News" here on Tuesday that the proposal has been conveyed formally to New Delhi through diplomatic channels and it was expected the two Foreign Secretaries would take it up when they meet in New Delhi early next month.... End quote.

Editorials/Opinions: Watch list Items

-- Campaign Against Terrorism

27. "Speak With One Voice!," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "Daily Times"
(08/04)

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Quote: The Interior Minister, Mr. Faisal Saleh Hayat, and the Information Minister, Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, have apparently issued two contradictory statements over the

arrest of Al-Qaeda member Ahmad Khalfan Ghailani from Gujrat on 25 July.... This cuts two ways. It hamstrings whatever we may be pursuing with the arrested agents, but it also erodes the deniability of Al-Qaeda's presence in Pakistan. Pakistan's vernacular press began by denying the existence of the terrorist organization. The reflex was inherited from the days when Pakistan was supportive of the Taliban government in Afghanistan and was not hostile towards Usama bin Laden. Then, under external pressure, the agents of Al-Qaeda began to be arrested inside Pakistan after 2001. The government accepted the pressure but the vernacular media in general resented it, denying terrorist connections of those arrested. In 2004, however, things are different in Pakistan. We know now who Ramzi bin al-Shibh was; and when it came to denying Nek Muhammad this year, we found it difficult to do so. The best course therefore would be to speak with one voice through one spokesman on all official matters related to giving information to the media and the public about Al-Qaeda terrorism. End quote.

28. "Ministers' Statements Need Semblance," an editorial in the centrist national English daily, "The News" (08/04)

Quote: ... Consequently while politicians may benefit from the restiveness caused in the nation it runs against national interests and also misleads the people. The international situation is compelling us to seriously ponder about peace in the country and safety of people's life and property and ensuring the nation that Pakistan is a sovereign and stable state. Creating doubts about this is not an act of patriotism. It is important that President Musharraf takes note of this and issues instructions that only an authorized person should speak on all issues including terrorism and provincial and regional matters. These persons should comment with care and patience after considering all aspects of an issue so that no misunderstanding is created in the minds of the people. End quote.

29. "Balochistan CM Attacked?," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (08/04)

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Quote: Coming close on the heels of an assassination attempt on Mr. Shaukat Aziz, which claimed eight lives while more than 50 persons were injured, the attack on Balochistan CM Jam Yousaf on Monday points to the government's failure to come to grips with growing terrorism.... While the entire country is in the grip of growing lawlessness, Balochistan has been bleeding for some time; and it is now difficult to keep the count of the terrorist acts occurring there in the recent past.... Every time a life is lost, both the federal and provincial governments pass the buck on to 'foreign hands' as if they are to protect the citizens from domestic miscreants alone. The Interior Minister transferred the IG Balochistan only after the killing of foreigners, but that has not improved matters. It is time the government allayed prevalent sense of alienation in Balochistan, lest it develop into a Darfur and become the focus of unwelcome world attention. End

quote.

30. "America's Enemies, Our Enemies," an editorial in the Karachi-based, right-wing, pro-Islamic unity Urdu daily, "Jasarat" (08/04)

Quote: A computer expert has reportedly been arrested from Pakistan who is alleged to be in possession of several blue prints to attack the U.S. The point is that those who want to attack some place do not make its blue prints by sitting thousands of miles away from the target. This the U.S. also understands but it wants to exploit the situation to its benefit and the government of Pakistan is fully cooperating with the U.S. President Musharraf has already stated that Wana is the headquarter of Al-Qaeda; since most of the major Al-Qaeda leaders have been arrested from here. And now a Pakistani engineer has been arrested with plans to attack U.S. This tantamount to getting an FIR registered against ourselves and inviting the U.S. to come and nab its enemies. Our rulers must know that those who are the enemies of the United States are not necessarily our enemies. But our government is treating as enemy anybody who has been declared as such by the United States. End quote.

-- Iraq: Foreign Troops

31. "Iraq Policy: Government should Get Rid of Confusion," an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (08/04)

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Quote: The Foreign Office spokesperson has said that Pakistani troops can't be sent to Iraq in the current precarious situation. It would have been better if the spokesperson had outlined the conditions that could allow deployment of troops in Iraq. What would be the utility of the troops if peace is established in that country? Would any section of the Iraqi population ever accept presence of Pakistan troops? What are the advantages of deploying troops in Iraq, and what are the downsides of not doing so.... Saudi Arabia had requested Islamic countries to send troops to Iraq, but the request did not materialize.... Pakistan troops have sacrificed their lives from Somalia to Sierra Leon, under the UN banner. Pakistan can side with the international community in Iraq in an honorable way, but first it should think over the pros and cons of this decision. When Spain and Philippine have withdrawn their troops from Iraq and Russia, Germany, France and dozens of other countries are not willing to make their soldiers sacrificial goats, why are we confused? End quote.

-- India-Pakistan Relations

32. "Belated Thinking," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (08/04)

Quote: ... It sounds pretty odd that our leaders should, at this stage, be asking India to fix a 'timeframe' to settle the Kashmir dispute after having introduced a whole range of CBMs that New Delhi had been wanting us to take. Pakistan should have made the

introduction of CBMs conditional on the acceptance of this point by India.... India's attitude does not bode well for the future of harmonious relations between the two countries. It hardly presages an approach flexible enough to come to a settlement on the core contention. Let alone resolving it through a plebiscite as the Kashmiri leaders demanded, it is not willing to make them a party to the dialogue process. A radical rethink of our policy that makes Kashmir the issue of first priority is called for. End quote.

-- Sudan: Darfur Crisis

33. "Darfur Crisis," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (08/04)

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Quote: ... National sovereignty might not mean permission to commit atrocities while the world watches on, but it should imply non-interference. The Sudanese government should not forget that it is a military dictatorship, and thus its legitimacy for its own people is suspect. This may well mean that its ability to resist intervention is more limited than a democracy's. The Sudanese government has generally maintained an anti-U.S. posture, and it should have noted that its weakness would be exploited ruthlessly. There is a lesson in this for all Third World states, especially Muslim ones, with weak unrepresentative regimes. End quote.

34. "Is There Hope For Darfur?," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily, "Dawn" (08/04)

Quote: ... If the killings don't stop within days, intervention - hopefully with Khartoum's acquiescence - would be advisable. The African Union should be able to put together a sufficiently large force for the purpose. If not, the UN could step in. But not as a proxy for another Anglo-American neocolonial adventure. U.S. troops would be hopelessly out of depth amid the complexities of Sudan, and would probably exacerbate the problem. And Europeans have done too much damage in Africa to qualify as saviors.... Were American forces to be deployed in Darfur, they would logically look upon the SLA and JEM as allies. The JEM enjoys the blessings of Sudanese Islamist leader Hassan Al Turabi. And Turabi was a friend of Usama bin Laden. That could conceivably put the U.S. on broadly the same side as the Al-Qaeda chief. Not for the first time, though. End quote.

-- Global Economy: WTO Talks

35. "What would be the Fate of Poor and Backward Countries?" an editorial note in the second largest Urdu daily "Nawa-e-Waqt" (08/04)

Quote: The WTO dialogue in Geneva has resulted in a treaty under which the developed countries would withdraw subsidies on their exports.... WTO wants to end whatever industrial and economic capability developing or backward countries have and want to turn these countries into open markets for multi-national companies and developed countries.... The developing

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and poor countries are heavily indebted to IMF and the same are being pressed to increase the prices of fertilizer, power tariff, taxes on pesticides, agro-equipment.... This so called organization of trade and commerce is bent upon destroying Pakistan's economic capability or whatever left of it. The foreign products would be cheaper, but at the cost of our industry. Presently the unemployment is 41 percent, which is bound to increase after WTO proposals implementation. What would the fate of these unemployed people? Still our educated trade minister says that the implementation of the WTO proposal would bring profit of billions of dollars. End quote. Powell

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